

Unit Six: Driving Faster with More Risk

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URBAN, SUBURBAN, AND RURAL DRIVING



Objectives For Unit Six

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What hazards might a new driver see in an urban area?

What hazards might a new driver see in a suburban area?

What hazards might a new driver see in a rural area?

What should a driver do at a railroad track?

Objectives For Unit Six

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- **Students will be able to describe the skills necessary to safely and legally drive on urban, suburban, and rural roads.**
 - Space Management
 - S.E.E.
 - Steering
- **Students will also be able to evaluate the inherent risks of these types of roads and determine how distraction will impact those risks.**
- **Students will be able to describe the types of vehicles typically found on urban, suburban, and rural roads and what laws apply to those vehicles including railroad safety.**

What Is The Impact Of Distraction?

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VIDEO TO BE DISPLAYED
DURING CLASSROOM
INSTRUCTION.

Bright Lights, Big City, & Risky Driving

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Urban Roads: Narrow, Congested Roads

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What are the risks of this narrow, congested road?



- **Parked cars**
- **People crossing the street between cars without looking carefully**
- **Limited ways to avoid crashes or change direction in an emergency**
- **Traffic**
- **Alleys**

Risk Factors On Urban Roads

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Mixed use roads: why are they risky?

- People coming and going to work
- People coming and going home
- People coming and going to shop
- Children coming and going to school
- People doing the unexpected all the time

What if the driver in the white car was distracted or speeding?



Pedestrians: The Risks

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- **According to a recent study, up to 50% of pedestrians who crossed against the light were distracted.**
- **A pedestrian is killed, on average, every two hours on American roads.**



Pedestrians: The Law

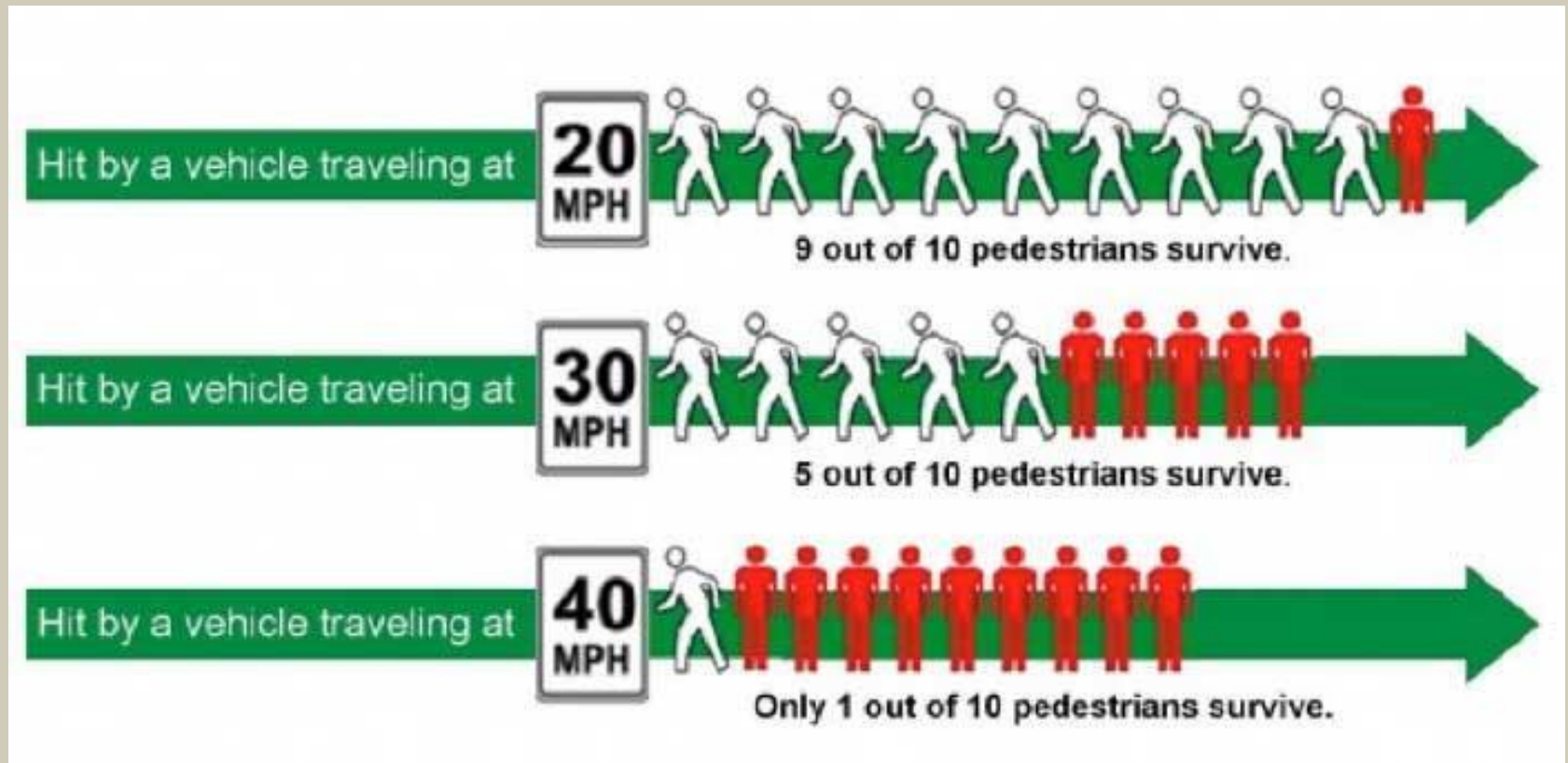
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- **Pedestrians have the right-of-way at street crossings.**
- **They must obey traffic signals.**
- **A driver must yield to hearing, sight, or mobility impaired pedestrians in the crosswalk.**



Why Search Is So Important.....

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Buses

Cars and
Light Trucks

Commercial
Trucks

Delivery
Trucks

Bicycles

Motorcycles

Emergency
Vehicles



**Urban Roads:
A Variety Of Vehicles**

Emergency Vehicles

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Tow Trucks with lights on



Law Enforcement



Fire Truck



Ambulances

Emergency Vehicles: The Law

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- **Emergency vehicles always have the right of way when using lights or sirens.**
- **When an emergency vehicle is approaching from behind, a driver must move as close as possible to the edge of the road and stop until it passes.**
- **If you are going in the same direction as the emergency vehicle, you may not pass it unless it stops or you are directed to do so by law enforcement.**
- **If an emergency vehicle is pulled over to the side of the road, you must either “move-over” one lane or slow down to a safe speed.**

Urban Driving: Alleys

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- Alleys create additional “entry points” onto roads.
- Vehicles may unexpectedly appear to merge onto a main road.
- Drivers should expect the unexpected.

What to do:

- Traffic is part of urban driving.
- Stay calm.
- Pay attention.
- Stay focused.

What NOT to do:

- Don't honk your horn.
- Don't get mad.
- Don't yell at other drivers.



Why My Horn Doesn't Help?

Urban Driving

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What Will A Driver Have To Do?

Navigate One Way Streets.

Navigate Through Complicated Intersections.

Make Right Turns On Red.

Parallel Parking.



One Way Streets

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- One way streets are frequently found in urban areas.
- Indicated by a black and white regulatory sign that shows the direction of traffic flow.



- May also have a red Do Not Enter sign or Wrong Way sign



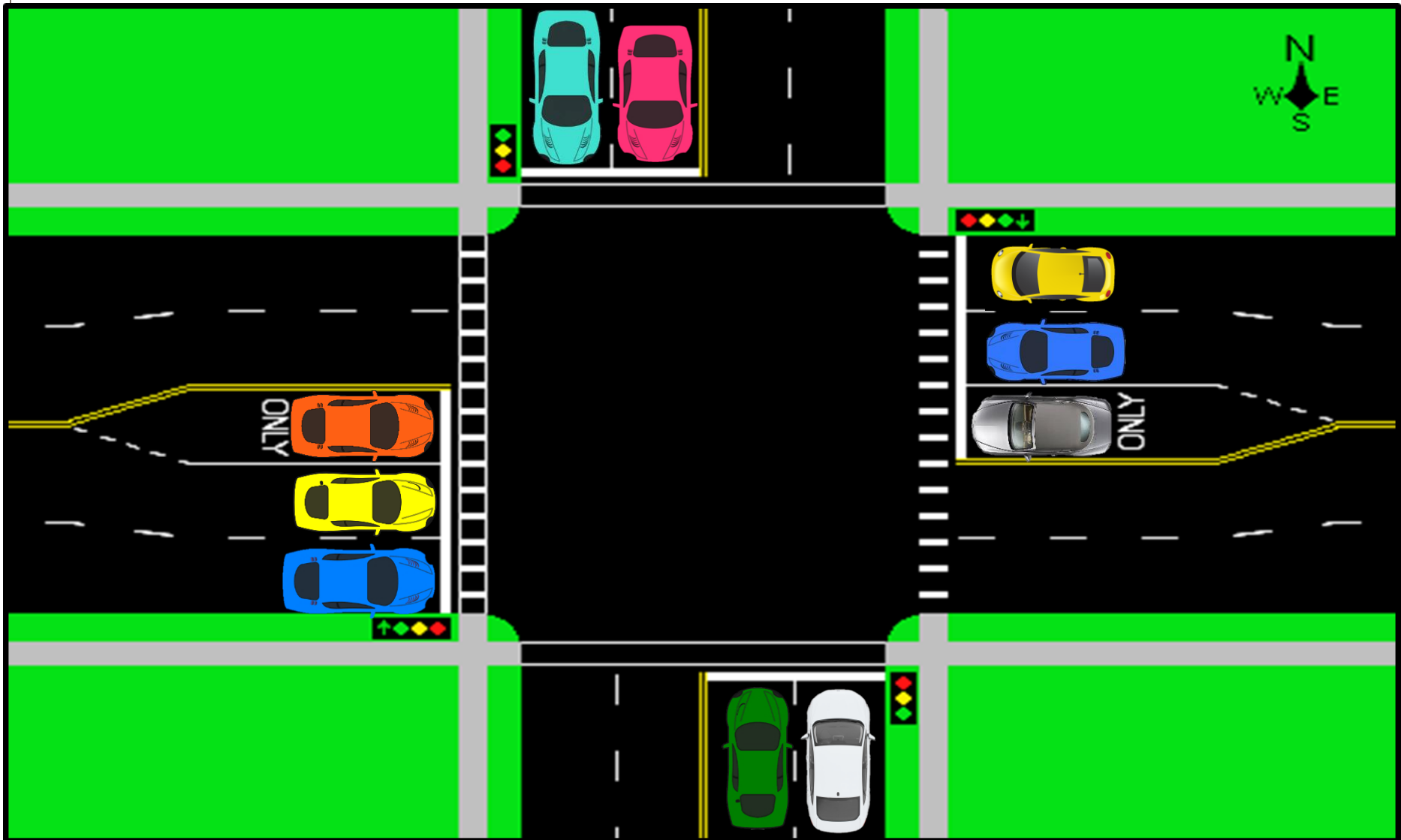
Intersections: Why Are They Risky?

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Intersections – multiple “conflict points”

- Places where vehicles, pedestrians, and other road users may all be at the same time.
- Conflict points pose the greatest risks for crashes.
- High number of conflict points make it challenging for a driver to effectively search and evaluate all possible paths of travel.
- High number of conflict points make it likely that the road may change quickly and frequently.

Urban Driving: Intersections



Intersections: Search

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Are there parked cars around you?

Is there a bike lane?

What are the road signs telling you?

Who is next to you?

Who is at the crosswalk?

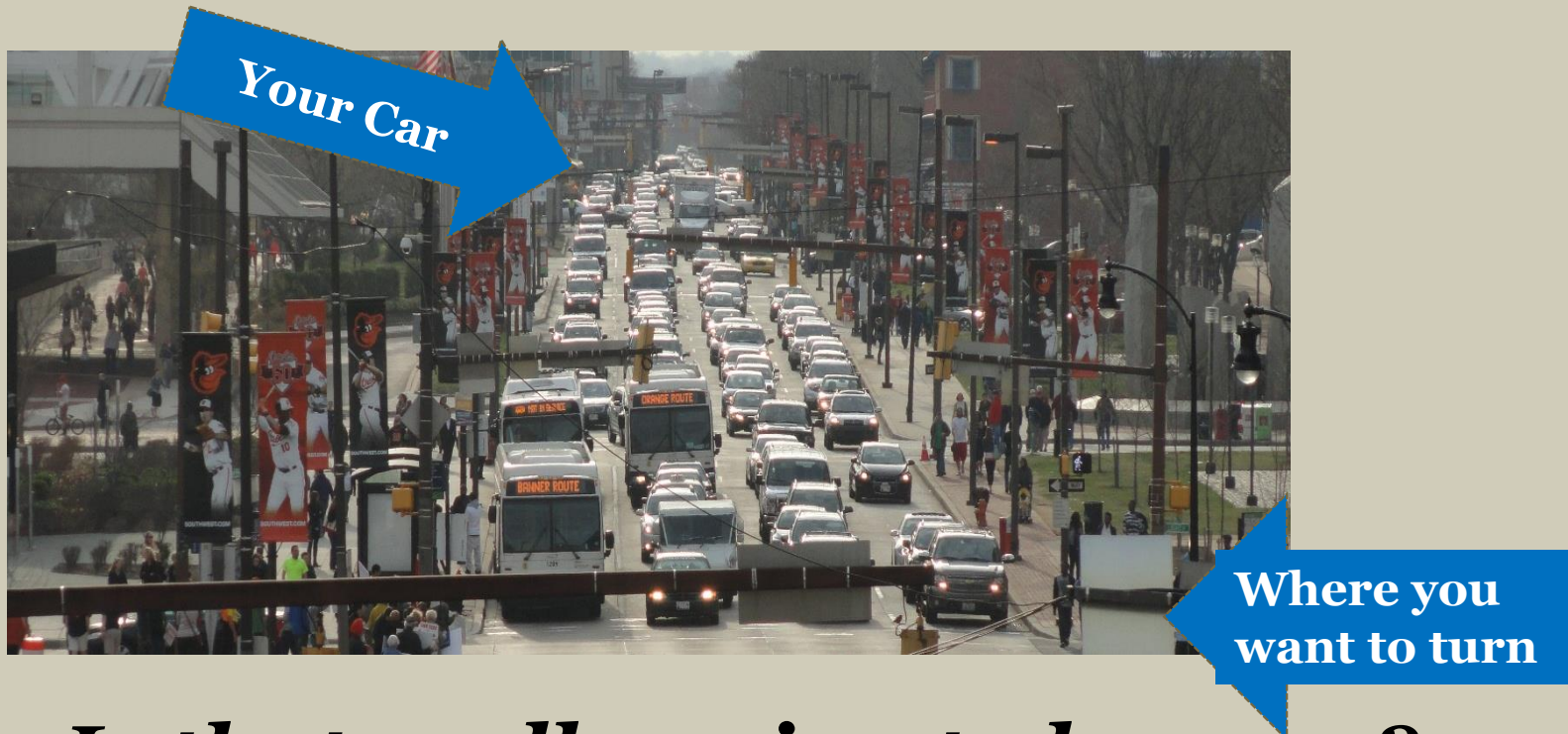
Who is behind you?

**Searching Constantly:
Critical To Safe Driving In Intersections**

Intersections: Evaluate

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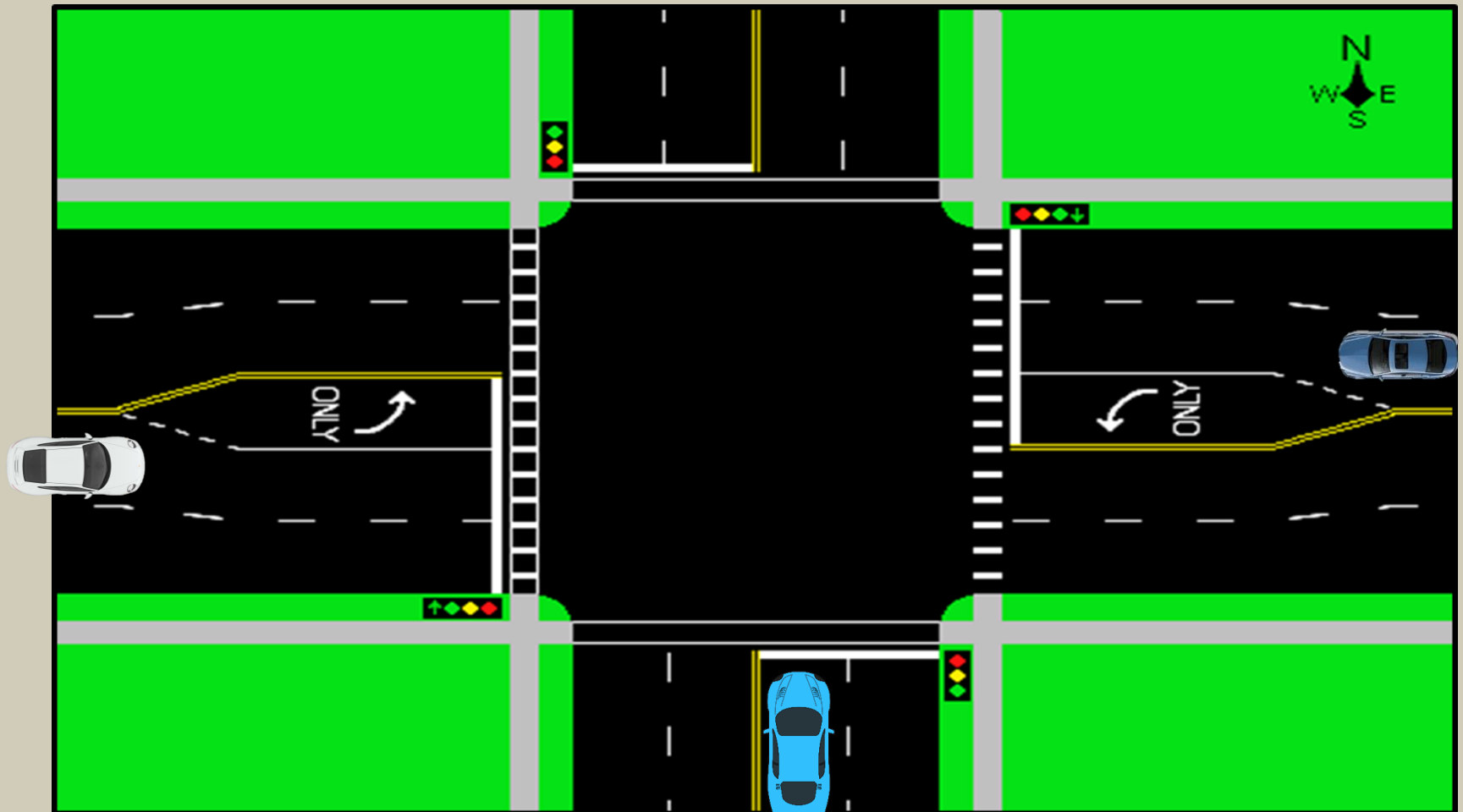
Balance what you want to do & what you can do.



Is that really going to happen?

Intersections: Evaluate Successfully

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Intersections: Execute

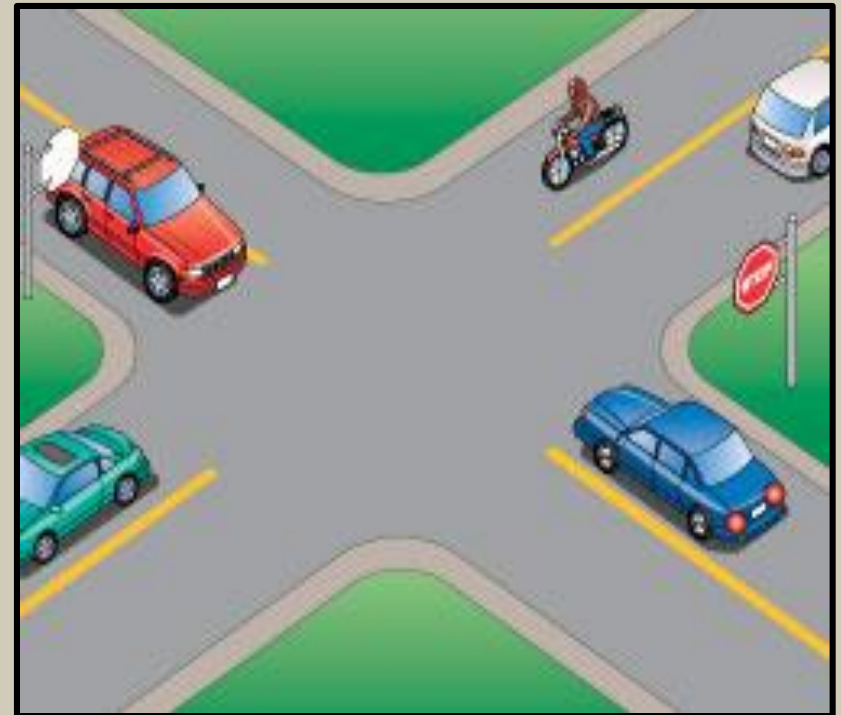
- **Select the best lane of traffic.**
- **Signal if necessary.**
- **Continuously search and evaluate the safety of your course of action.**
- **Yield to pedestrians and other vehicles if necessary.**
- **Allow for appropriate following and stopping distance.**
- **Be sure to stay in your lane.**
- **Maintain your lane position.**
- **Continue to search even as you go through the intersection.**

Intersections: Making A Right Turn

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Making A Right Turn

- **Search for any pedestrians & bicycles in your path.**
- **Signal your intent to turn at least 100 feet ahead of intersection.**
- **Check for any signs or traffic signals.**
- **Come to a complete stop.**
- **Follow process for turning.**



Intersections: Making A Right Turn

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Making Right Turn on Red

- Need to search **EXTREMELY** carefully.
- Evaluate carefully all possible actions.
- Check for any signs.
- Need to stop and search again before making turn.
- Does a driver HAVE TO MAKE a right on red?



Intersections

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Making A Left Turn

Search

- What are the possible risks for the red car to make a left turn?

Evaluate

- What are the possible courses of action?



Intersections: Making Left Turns

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- **Execute**
 - **Yield to any oncoming traffic.**
 - **Search.**
 - **Check for any signs restricting left turns.**
 - **Signal at least 100 feet in advance.**
 - **Adjust lane position.**
 - **Reduce speed.**
 - **Continue to search:**
 - ✦ **Crosswalk**
 - ✦ **Bike paths**
 - ✦ **Path of travel**
 - ✦ **Intended destination**
 - **Begin turn when your front wheels are at the center of the intersection.**
 - **Turn wheel counter-clockwise.**
 - **Accelerate through turn until car is in line with your new path of travel.**
 - **Stay in your lane.**
 - **Complete turn by reversing steering process.**
 - **Turn off signal if necessary.**



Intersections: Shared Left Turn Lanes

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What two things can be done in a shared left turn lane?

- Turn left from a highway.
- Turn left onto a highway.

What are the arrows telling a driver he/she can do?



Intersections: Shared Left Turn Lanes

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Search

- Check oncoming traffic.

Evaluate

- Is this a safe action to take?
- Signal, check mirrors, and left blind spot.

Execute

- Move into shared lane.
- Proceed when clear.
- Do not drive in these lanes for long distances.
- Do not use them for passing other vehicles.



Urban Roads: Parallel Parking

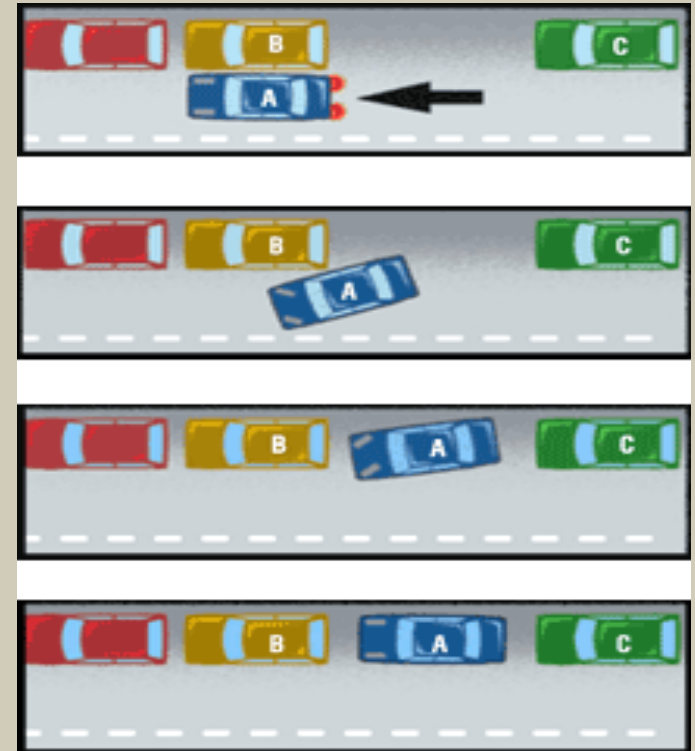
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Search

- What is beside you and behind you?
- Check for other road users.
- Remember to check your mirrors.
- Remember a head check.

Evaluate

- Do you have enough room?



Urban Roads: Parallel Parking

Execute

- Position your vehicle next to the car in front of your spot.
- Check mirrors continuously throughout process.
- Shift to reverse and search again.
- Turn steering wheel to the right.
- Look over right shoulder and back slowly.
- When your back left bumper is aligned with the middle of the car behind you, turn the wheel in proper direction.
- Continue to back up slowly, straightening steering wheel.
- When both the front and back of your vehicle aligns with the vehicles in front of and in back of you, you are in the spot.



Parallel Parking

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VIDEO TO BE DISPLAYED
DURING CLASSROOM
INSTRUCTION.

Parallel Parking: Mistakes

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- Failing to signal.
- Not getting close enough(or too close)to the vehicle in front of you.
- Hitting the curb as you are backing up.
- Hitting the car in front of or in back of yours.
- Failing to check mirrors.
- Failing to signal when entering or exiting spot.

Suburban Driving

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What Is A Suburban Road?

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- **Suburban roads**
 - **Large roads, usually 3 or 4 lanes going in each direction.**
 - **Speed limits are usually between 30-55 mph.**
 - **May connect smaller developments to larger more populated areas.**
 - **Have many entrance and exit points for shops, malls, neighborhoods, and restaurants.**
 - **Have larger and more complicated intersections.**
 - **May also have significant traffic congestion.**

Suburban Roads: Risks

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- **Many of the same risk groups as in urban areas.**
 - **Variety of road users**
 - **Traffic and congestion**
- **Roads are larger and higher speed than in urban areas.**
- **Intersections are more complicated.**
- **Many entry and exit points along road:**
 - **Drivers going from neighborhoods or parking lots onto roads with speeds of 30-55.**



Tasks On Suburban Roads: Yielding

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- **What is a yield?**

- It does not necessarily mean to stop.
- It means to slow down and prepare to allow another driver to go in front of you.
- You may also have to stop to let another vehicle in front of you.
- There are laws for determining which vehicle must yield for another vehicle.
 - ✦ **This is also called right-of-way.**



Yielding: Who Has Right-Of-Way?

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You should be prepared to yield:

- To a driver is at or arrives before you at the intersection,
- To a driver in the opposing traffic lane if you are making a left turn,
- To a driver on your right, if both of you arrive at the intersection at the same time, and
- To a driver on a public road if you are entering the highway from a driveway or a private road.

Or here...



If you do not want to yield, you may end up sitting here.

Rural Roads: Trains, Tractors, And Deer

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Rural Roads: Risk Factors

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- Trains
- Animals
- Curved roads with limited visibility
- Limited shoulder areas
- Higher speeds with no barriers

Trains

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- **Most dangerous crossing without warning lights or gates.**
- **Trains can take 1-3 miles to stop.**
- **Look and listen for trains when approaching tracks.**
- **Never go under or around a railroad gate.**
- **Never stop on railroad tracks.**
- **Be especially alert after dark.**



Rural Roads: Deer

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- **Usually see them at dawn and dusk.**
- **Peak deer season is from October to January.**
- **Most frequently found on the outskirts of town and in heavily wooded areas.**
- **Deer almost never travel alone. If you see one deer, others are near.**



How To Avoid A Crash With A Deer

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- **SLOW DOWN**, especially at dawn or dusk.
- **Look for the shine of eyes along the roadside.**
- **Use your high beams whenever the road is free of oncoming traffic.**
- **Deer can become mesmerized by steady, bright lights. If you see one on the road, slow down and flash your lights.**
- **Pay close attention to warning signs indicating deer.**
- **If you are on a multi-lane road, drive in the center lane to give as much space to grazing deer as possible.**



Never swerve to avoid a deer.

Don't rely on gadgets to scare off deer.

Call 911 if injured.

Never touch an animal that is in the roadway.

Report the incident to your insurance company.



Encountering A Deer

Rural Roads: Winding & Narrow

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Limited Visibility

No divider between lanes

Limited shoulder space

Pass With Care

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Prepare to pass- Why do you want to?

Search

- What is around you in all directions?
- Why is it especially critical to SEARCH?

Evaluate

- Estimate the space & time needed to pass.
- Position yourself two to three seconds behind the vehicle you want to pass.
- Check mirrors and oncoming traffic.
- Check ahead for safe passing distance.
- Signal your intentions.



Passing: Execute

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Overtake the ongoing car

- **Signal your intention and accelerate into passing lane.**
- **Accelerate quickly to an appropriate speed, but do not exceed the posted speed limit.**
- **Concentrate on the path ahead.**
- **Check your mirror for following cars.**

Return to lane







- **Check your rear-view mirror for the front of the car you are passing.**
- **Signal your intention.**
- **Change lanes and maintain speed.**
- **Cancel turn signal.**

Passing On Rural Roads






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Passing Procedures: True/False

- Always check ahead for a safe passing distance before being passed 
- It is safe to pass on the crest of a hill. 
- Drivers may not pass when there is a solid yellow line on their side of the roadway. 
- It is legal to pass within 100 feet of a railroad crossing. 
- You can pass within 100 feet of a tunnel or an intersection. 
- You should always do a “head check” before passing. 

Passing Procedures: True/False

- Before passing, you should position your vehicle 5 to 6 seconds behind the vehicle to be passed. 
- You should be able to see the headlights of the car that you passed in your rearview mirror before you return to your lane after passing. 
- When moving into the passing lane, you may accelerate but may not exceed the speed limit. 
- Cancel your turn signal after passing. 
- The driver whose vehicle is being passed may speed up while being passed, making passing more difficult. 

Review For Unit Six

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- What are the significant risks of neighborhood driving, and how can a driver address them?
- What are the significant risks of suburban driving and how can a driver address them?
- What are the significant risks of rural driving and how can a driver address them?
- Why are intersections dangerous for drivers?
- What is a shared left turn lane and how can a driver use them?
- What steps a driver need to take to make a right turn on red?
- What are some of the common mistakes a driver can make when parallel parking?

END OF UNIT SIX